

MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2023

The meeting was held at the Tri-Community Ambulance Building, 11 Main Street, and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Stiles, followed by the pledge to the flag.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Zachary W. Stiles - President
Gregory Bonas
Gregory W. Kinard – Vice President
Deborah J. Ferree
Gary Landis
John J. Neal
William H. Stiles, II

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Douglas J. Wagner – Mayor
Makennah Stiles, Jr. Councilperson
Cheryl Bahn, Secretary
Todd A. Zeigler – Treasurer & Asst. Secretary
D. Michael Craley – Solicitor
Samantha Craley - Assistant Solicitor

Number of Visitors in Attendance – 36

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- REGULAR MEETING HELD JUNE 7, 2023
 - Motion by Neal, seconded by Kinard, and unanimously carried to approve the June 7, 2023, meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mark McWILLIAMS, 11 Church Street, shared with Council his frustration of the discharge of fireworks on night well before, or after, a major holiday, as well as the very late hours that they are discharged. Solicitor Craley explained the state law governing fireworks, and the difficulty of enforcement, especially when relying on the PA State Police (they do not have the available resources). Mr. McWilliams was encouraged to contact his State Representative and State Senator.
- Jessica VALIS, 22 Cherry Street, had several items to comment upon. First, she stated that she learned through a Right-to-Know request that over the past 13 years the ordinance committee had not met. Zeigler clarified that Right-to-Know requests are for documents only, and that he could not locate any such documents, and further noted that committee’s do not typically advertise or maintain minutes because they are under a quorum of the Council. He also stated that he is not implying that did meet, but the fact that no documents exist does not indicate that the ordinance committee did not meet during that time period. Second, she asked that all ordinance violations be photographed in time spans to avoid litigation. She

**MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

does not believe saying we have witnesses is a good explanation. Zeigler responded that he always documents violations with photographs, and does not rely on witnesses, and that the photographic evidence is present to a judge if a violation reaches that point. Third, Ms. Valis stated she has been asking the community what could be done to better the community, and that she mostly heard back that there needs to be more things to do. She asked that the Council consider the allocation of funds for community activities, such as movie nights, etc.

- Christopher VALIS, 22 Cherry Street, addressed Council with three (3) issues. First, he asked Council to consider adding a streetlight, or other lighting, at the bridge that crosses the Codorus Creek. He noted that it is dark and he has concerns that a pedestrian could get struck by a passing vehicle. Second, he asked that it be considered placing a stop bar on the pavement at the stop sign on Main Street, at the Rail Tail Overpass, to help draw attention to the stop sign for those not familiar with the area. Zeigler stated that he would reach out to PennDOT, since Main Street is a state highway, and will ask if that could be placed on the pavement. Third, Mr. Valis asked Council to consider a “dumpster day” to allow residents to dispose of trash and rubbish that some may have in their yards.
- Brandon BRENNEMAN, 81 Main Street, questioned if the public announcement (of the meetings) could be done, and meet the law, without having to advertise in the local newspaper (which is costly). Solicitor Craley responded by saying that state law dictates how municipalities must advertise public meetings, and that for many years there has been an effort to have that amended, but that the newspaper industry has vehemently opposed that change. Wagner followed up on a comment by Solicitor Craley and noted that SB 231 proposes legislation that would allow three (3) options for advertising, and not solely a newspaper advertisement. He added that it is not a law but is being strongly lobbied by the PA State Association of Boroughs.
- Kathleen EASLEY, 89 Church Street, presented Council with two (2) questions. First, she asked if there was anything to follow-up on discussion from last month regarding the need for a roof permit. Zeigler commented that there is no record of a permit for 52 Church Street or 78 Church Street, and that they would be receiving a letter advising that they must secure a zoning permit at a cost of \$75. Second, she stated that her son (owner of 87/89 Church Street) received a notice of increased assessment of \$1,000 and that they do not know what it is for. She suspects that it is because the house roof was replaced with a metal roof. Ms. Easley inquired as to how she can have the cost of the project that was reported to the County reduced because she believes it should be for materials only and not include labor. Zeigler commented that the York County Assessment Office does not determine an assessment on the project value. She said she spoke to the Assessment Office and that they have no record of an increase. When asked who the notice/letter was from, she responded that she did not know because neither she nor her son could find the letter. It was recommended that they locate the letter first and provide a copy so that we can assist her.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- No Report.

**MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

FIRE COMPANY / EMC REPORT

- No Report.
- Scott Lackey, Borough EMC, noted that EMC training will be offered on July 20, 2023 (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.) by the York County Department of Emergency Services.
- It was also reported by Scott Lackey that the Seven Valleys Fire company had one (1) call June 2023.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TO BOROUGH – 11 MAIN STREET
 - Approval of the real estate transfer remains with the York County Orphans Court. The PA Attorney General has already approved the transfer.
- STYCSA RATE ISSUE – MEDIATION
 - It was reported that the mediation will not begin before September 2023.
- STATE POLICE REPORT
 - No report. Assistant Solicitor S. Craley noted that the PA State Police have not provided a call update since March 31, 2023.

ZONING/UCC/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- MONTHLY REPORT
 - The zoning & code enforcement officer's report, prepared by Zeigler, was presented to Council. There were no questions about the report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- WEBSITE REBUILD

Zeigler reported that he and Bahn had one (1) training session with Jessica Valis on the new website, and that a second training is scheduled for next week. The website is anticipated to go live in a week or two later.

NEW BUSINESS

- UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE (UCC) & BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL (BCO) SERVICES AGREEMENT

As reported at the June 2023 meeting, South Penn Code Consultants (SPCC) is no longer providing UCC or BCO services. The former SPCC BCO/UCC inspector, Kevin Hertzog, is no longer employed by SPCC, but has established his own UCC/BCO services company. A motion was made by W. Stiles, seconded by Kinard, to appoint Kevin Hertzog, Dependable Construction Code Services, as the Borough's BCO and third party UCC agency. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- JUNE 2023

Motion by Landis, seconded by Neal, and unanimously carried to approve, accept, and file the financial report for audit, and to authorize the Treasurer to pay regular bills.

**MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

REPORTS

▪ **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- No report.

▪ **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wagner reported that the “Free Library” post/box are expected to be delivered in coming days. The free library will be located along the Rail Trail close to the rail trail overpass, between Main Street & Cherry Street.
- It was noted by Wagner that the PA State Police now have a community contact, Trooper James T. Grothey. The Trooper will communicate with municipalities and residents that need assistance, but not for emergency police services, as well as being available for community training, school events, etc. He also noted that the State Police Barricks maintains a record of people with special needs/issues so that the police are aware should there be an emergency call to that person's address. Bahn added that Trooper Grothey will even make visits to assist parents/grandparents with installing child seats in a car. The telephone number to the State Police Barricks is 717-428-1011.

▪ **LIEN COLLECTION REPORT**

- With the payment and satisfaction of two (2) liens the number of outstanding liens has been reduced to three (3) liens.

▪ **YCSTSA REPORT**

- There remain six (6) EDUs available.
- Solicitor Craley noted that the report includes information about the ongoing problems at the Church Street pump station, which will eventually need to be replaced (sooner rather than later).

▪ **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- FERREE questioned why the annual community yard sale, held the second Saturday of each July, cannot be changed to the fall when there is cooler weather. Blaine Gerver (Seven Valleys Fire Company) and President Stiles commented that neither the Fire Company nor Borough are the event leaders but have always been participants. It was suggested that Ferree provide a date at a future meeting and the Borough and Fire Company will support the date change, provided it does not conflict with other nearby community events.
- LANDIS shared his thoughts on neighbors working together as a community, such as the fireworks, and that neighbors should be considerate and respectful of their each other. Communication between neighbors is important to achieve that level of community support.
- NEAL expressed his concern with fireworks, as well; specifically, those who set off large fireworks on a small property, in close proximity to buildings.
- KINARD asked if the curb & sidewalk project would be completed this year. Zeigler stated that he anticipated that it would because the grant awards for the stormwater improvements along Church Street are slated to be announced later this month.

**MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

- W. STILES thanked everyone who attended the meeting, and for their insightful comments and questions. Wagner concurred and stated that attending meetings avoids receiving misinformation. If an answer cannot be provided at the meeting one will be found and conveyed at the next meeting, if not sooner. Both welcomed the public to return and to continue attending the monthly meetings.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT

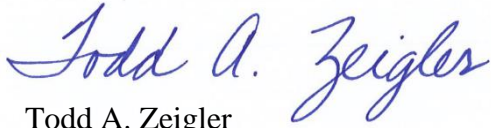
- Jessica VALIS, 22 Cherry Street, followed up on the earlier Council discussion about a fall community yard sale by suggesting that the Borough consider providing a dumpster so that residents can dispose of items that were not sold at the yard sale. President Stiles noted that the Borough's refuse collection contract allows for every property to place one (1) large bulk trash item at the curb for collection, each week. It was recommended that Penn Waste be contacted in advance to assure that the item is collected on the regular collection day.
- Ryan ROYCE, 109 Main Street, asked that with the change in UCC/BCO services if there was any consideration to the cost of a building permit. He noted that when the change from Spring Grove to SPCC occurred, the cost significantly increased. Zeigler commented that if the permit is a building permit (not zoning) that the fee structure is established by the third-party agency. He also noted that the DCCS rates vary from those of SPCC, some higher and some lower with some the same, but that the fees are somewhat balanced with what they were with SPCC. Zeigler further commented that the larger third-party UCC/BCO agencies, with greater overhead, have rates higher than SPCC and DCCS.
- Brandon BRENNEMAN, 81 Main Street, asked if the Borough has a HVAC service contractor for the building (air conditioner was not working) and if not, he would be willing to offer his services. Zeigler noted that under the lease agreement with WellSpan they are responsible for the general maintenance and repair of the HVAC in the building. President Stiles thanked him for his offer.
- Jerome CHILTON, 18 Cherry Street, followed-up on the previous discussion regarding trucks passing through the Borough; specifically, the tractor trailers that attempt to travel on Cherry Street, between Cross Street and College Avenue. He asked if there could be any signage, or other warning notification, for trucks who attempt to use this route (GPS directed). The Borough will look farther into the signage but noted the history of truck drivers not obeying signs (Main Street & Rail Trail overpass) is reason to not be optimistic.
- Scott LACKEY, Seven Valleys Fire Company, asked those present to keep in thought and prayer the families of the two (2) fire fighters from New Jersey who perished in a cargo ship fire.

ADJOURNMENT

- President Stiles thanked the public for attending the meeting and for their comments/suggestions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by President Stiles. The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at 11 Main Street, Seven Valleys.

**MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

Respectfully submitted,



Todd A. Zeigler
Assistant Secretary